LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1-15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (previously presented) A system for reducing speckle contrast in a single laser pulse, comprising:

a plurality of beamsplitters oriented to receive said laser pulse and split said laser pulse into a plurality of laser pulses; and

a plurality of optical delay elements oriented to delay at least one of said plurality of pulses, wherein said optical delay elements cause said plurality of laser pulses to contact a target at predetermined relative times;

wherein said beamsplitters and optical delay elements are oriented to provide said plurality of pulses to said target at varying angular offsets.

Claim 17. (currently amended)The system of claim 16, wherein:

said at least one beamsplitter comprises two beamsplitters; and

said ~~at least one~~ plurality of optical delay elements comprises five reflective surfaces; and

wherein said arrangement is oriented to cause four pulses to strike said target at different times.

Claim 18. (currently amended) The system of claim 16, wherein said optical delay elements comprise at least one TIR surface and at least one AR (antireflective) surface.

Claim 19. (previously presented) The system of claim 16, wherein said optical delay elements comprises at least one reflective surface oriented to utilize Brewster's angle.

Claim 20. (canceled).

Claim 21. (previously presented) The system of claim 16, wherein said system causes four pulses to contact said target at four different times.

Claims 22-32. (canceled)

Claim 33. (previously presented) The system of claim 16, wherein said optical delay elements comprises a plurality of prisms for receiving light energy and redirecting light energy in a predetermined manner thereby causing delay of application of said pulses to said target.

Claim 34. (previously presented) The system of claim 16, wherein said beamsplitters redirect said laser pulses toward said optical delay elements, and wherein said optical delay elements are positioned varying distances from said beamsplitters to vary delay of said laser pulses.

Claim 35 (canceled)

Claim 36. (previously presented) A system for reducing speckle contrast during inspection of a target, comprising:

at least one beamsplitter oriented to receive an energy pulse and split said energy pulse into a plurality of energy pulses; and

at least one optical delay element oriented to delay at least one of said plurality of energy pulses;

wherein each beamsplitter and optical delay element is oriented to provide said plurality of pulses to the target at different times and varying angular offsets, thereby reducing speckle contrast of an image of the target.

Claim 37. (previously presented) The system of claim 36, wherein each optical delay element is staggered in distance from a corresponding beamsplitter, thereby producing a staggered set of time delays for each pulse directed toward one beamsplitter.

Claim 38. (previously presented) The system of claim 36, wherein said at least one optical delay elements comprises a plurality of reflective surfaces.

Claim 39. (previously presented) The system of claim 37, wherein said at least one optical delay elements comprises a plurality of reflective surfaces.

Claim 40. (currently amended)The system of claim 36, wherein said at least one optical delay element comprises at least one TIR surface and at least one AR (antireflective) surface.

Claim 41. (previously presented) The system of claim 16, wherein said at least one optical delay element comprises at least one reflective surface oriented to utilize Brewster's angle.

Claim 42. (canceled)

Claim 43 (previously presented) A speckle contrast reduction system, comprising:

a plurality of beamsplitters oriented to receive a laser pulse and split said laser pulse into a plurality of laser pulses; and

a plurality of optical delay elements oriented to delay at least one of said plurality of pulses and further oriented to provide the plurality of pulses to a target, wherein said optical delay elements cause said plurality of laser pulses to contact the target at predetermined relative times, said plurality of optical elements comprising at least one optical element having at least one total internal reflection (TIR) surface.

Claim 44. (previously presented) The system of claim 43, wherein:

said at least one beamsplitter comprises two beamsplitters; and

said at least one optical delay elements comprises five reflective surfaces; and

wherein said arrangement is oriented to cause four pulses to strike said target at different times.

Claim 45. (currently amended) The system of claim 43 wherein said optical delay elements comprise at least one AR (antireflective) surface.

Claim 46. (previously presented) The system of claim 43, wherein said optical delay elements comprises at least one reflective surface oriented to utilize Brewster's angle.

Claim 47. (previously presented) The system of claim 43, wherein said system causes four pulses to contact said target at four different times.

Claim 48. (previously presented) The system of claim 43, wherein said optical delay elements comprises a plurality of prisms for receiving light energy and redirecting light energy in a predetermined manner thereby causing delay of application of said pulses to said target.

Claim 49. (previously presented) The system of claim 43, wherein said beamsplitters redirect said laser pulses toward said optical delay elements, and wherein said optical delay elements are positioned varying distances from said beamsplitters to vary delay of said laser pulses.